Malpractices in Railway reservations

234. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of malpractices in Railway reservations detected during 1989 and upto the 15th November, 1990, indicating the figures separately in the country,

(b) the number of railway employees found guilty and punished for such malpractices during this period, and

(c) whether Government propose to examine the rules for plugging the loopholes in reservations as well as for the refund of fares for unused reserved railway tickets to eliminate delay in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS). (a) 817 during 1989 and 702 upto 15th November, 1990 in respect of only reservation malpractices as detected by Vigilance Organisation.

(b) The number of railway employees found guilty and punishments initiated by the Vigilance Organisation stood at 853 during 1989 and 926 upto 15th November, 1990. The disciplinary cases include some of those against whom actions were initiated in earlier periods also

(c) In the Railways Act, 1989 effective from 1-7-90, the penalty for transfer of ticket has been enhanced to imprisonment upto 3 months and/or fine upto Rs. 500/. For unauthorisedly carrying on business of procuring and supplying of railway tickets, penalty of imprisonment upto 3 years and/or fine upto Rs. 10,000/- has been provided These provisions would be deterrent to unauthorised sale, purchase or transfer of reserved tickets

The rules for cancellation of tickets and refund of fares have been revised with effect from 1.9.1990.

Drinking water problem in Rajasthan

235 SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to continued drought for the past five years the drinking water supply situation in Rajasthan has worsened and underground water table receding at a fast rate;

(b) whether any central Study Team has undertaken any survey to assess the drinking water shortage in various districts of Rajasthan; and

(c) whether the State Government has sought any Central help for the proposed lift scheme from Indira Gandhi Canal for Jodhpur city and Bilaspur Dam Project if so, the amount sanctioned so far and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH): (a) There is a declining trend in groundwtaer levels in some areas of Rajasthan due to continuous deficit rainfall and excessive groundwater withdrawals for various uses.

(b) A team of officers of the Central Government had visited the State to assess the situation of drinking water supply in seriously affected districts.

(c) The expenditure on the lift scheme from Indira Gandhi Canal for Jodhpur city is met out of State Sector plan resources for urban areas, Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) for rural areas, LIC loan assistance and assistance from the defence authorities for defence establishment. The expenditure on Bilaspur Dam project is met out of the State Government's plan resources No specific proposal for Central help has been received from the State Government for these projects in 1990-91 in the Ministry of Urban Development and Department of Rural Development.